

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claim 4; amends Claim 13; and adds new Claims 25-32. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for Claim 13 is found in canceled Claim 4, and in the specification at least at page 7, lines 22-31, and page 8, lines 10-11. Support for new Claim 25 is found in canceled Claim 4 and in the specification at least at page 8, lines 10-11. Support for new Claim 26 is found in the specification at least at page 8, lines 26-27. Support for new Claim 27 is found at least in Claims 3, 7 and 13. Support for new Claim 28 is found in Claim 8 and in the specification at least at page 9, line 29. Support for new Claim 29 is found at least in Claim 12. Support for new Claim 30 is found in the specification at least at page 8, lines 26-27. Support for new Claim 31 is found in the specification at least at page 7, lines 7-8. Support for new Claim 32 is found in Claim 8 and in the specification at least at page 7, lines 7-11 and page 9, line 29. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-3, 5-13 and 17-32 will be pending in this application. Claims 13, 27 and 32 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Office Action at page 5, section 16. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the further indication that just an inner layer of PMMA would differentiate independent Claim 13 from the prior art. Interview Summary dated October 8, 2003.

As discussed at the October 8, 2003, personal interview, the present invention provides a self-supporting, radiation-curable, composite layered sheet or film that, when bonded on a molding or other surface, provides improved scratch resistance and mechanical elasticity.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8, 12-21 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,855,184 ("Klun"). In addition, Claims 3, 8-11 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Klun.

Klun discloses a radiation-curable protective coating composition of a normally solid, organic solvent-soluble, thermoplastic, polyethylenically-unsaturated, cellulosic polyurethane polymer. Klun at Title; Abstract, lines -13. Klun discloses that coating solutions containing the polyurethanes can be applied to various substrates including plastics. Klun also discloses that after coating, solvent is allowed to evaporate from the coating. The polyurethane coating can serve as an intermediate coating on which additional coatings may be applied. Klun at column 22, lines 26-37.

However, Klun fails to suggest the independent Claim 13 limitations of a "sheet or film comprising at least one substrate layer, one outer layer, and a *layer of polymethyl methacrylate* between the at least one substrate layer and the outer layer". In addition, Klun fails to suggest the independent Claim 26 limitations of a "sheet or film comprising at least one substrate layer, one outer layer, and a coloring interlayer between the at least one substrate layer and the outer layer, wherein the at least one substrate layer comprises a thermoplastic polymer selected from ..." the recited Markush group. Furthermore, Klun fails to suggest the independent Claim 31 limitation of "co-extruding at least one substrate layer and one outer layer, wherein the outer layer *during the co-extrusion* comprises a *water-free* and *solvent-free* radiation-curable composition comprising a binder having a glass transition temperature of more the 40°C ".

Because Klun fails to suggest all the limitations of the claimed invention, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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